REMARKS

Claims 18-35 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the indication by the Examiner that claims 22-35 have been allowed. Accordingly, claims 18-21 stand finally rejected and Applicants hereby cancel claims 18-21 without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, allowed claims 22-35 are the only claims that remain pending in this application.

In light of the fact that claims 22-35 have already been deemed allowable, Applicants hereby respectfully request that a *Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due* be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 9, 2004

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